

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT
VEHICLE INDUSTRY REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

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Special Equipment

16.000 Introduction

Special construction, special mobile, implements of husbandry, and cemetery and logging vehicles **must** display a Special Equipment (SE) identification plate.

SE plates are **optional** for implements of husbandry (CVC §36000).

16.010 Special Construction Equipment (CVC §565)

Includes any of the following:

- Any vehicle (including a water-well drilling rig):
 - used primarily off the highways for construction purposes and
 - which moves only occasionally over the highways and
 - which because of the length, height, width, or unladen weight may not move over public highways unladen without the permit (issued by Department of Transportation [CALTRANS] or local authorities) as specified in CVC §35780.

NOTE: Special construction equipment **does not** include concrete pumps/pumper booms and oil well service rigs.

These vehicles meet the definition of a “crane” and **are not** qualified for issuance of Special Equipment (SE) plates as special construction equipment.

- Any vehicle which is:
 - designed and used primarily either for grading or paving of highways, earth moving, and other highway construction work, or construction or maintenance work on railroad rights-of-way, **and**
 - not designed or used primarily for transportation of persons or property, **and**
 - only incidentally (secondary to the use of the equipment) operated or moved on the highway. “Primary use” shall mean **at least** 51% of the time.



16.010 Special Construction Equipment (§565), *continued*

Special construction equipment includes, but is not limited to:

- Air Drills
- Asphalt Spreaders
- Bituminous Mixers
- Bucket Loaders
- Earth-Moving Scrapers and Carryalls
- Finishing Machines
- Leveling Graders
- Lighting Plants
- Motor Graders
- Paving Mixers
- Portable Air Compressors
- Power Shovels and Draglines
- Road Rollers
- Scarifiers
- Self-Propelled and Tractor-Drawn Earth Moving Equipment and Machinery
- Skip Loaders
- Speed Swings
- Track-Type or Crawler Tractors
- Water Wagons (self-propelled or trailer)
- Weed Mowers
- Welders

and Oversize and/or overweight dump trucks and tractor-dump trailer combinations:

- that may not be moved over the highways without a permit as specified in CVC §35780, and
- which are not operated laden except within the boundaries of the job construction site.

Special Construction Equipment Exclusions

Special construction equipment excludes the following:

- A vehicle originally designed to transport persons or property to which machinery has been attached, unless specifically designated in CVC §565.
- Dump trucks originally designed to comply with the size and weight provisions of the *California Vehicle Code*.
- Truck-mounted transit mixers.
- Shovels.
- Cranes. This **includes** concrete pumps/pumper booms, oil well service rigs, and other vehicles fitting the definition of a crane.

16.020 Special Mobile Equipment (CVC §575)

A vehicle qualifies as special mobile equipment if it is:

- **not** self-propelled,
- **not** designed or used primarily for the transportation of persons or property, and
- only incidentally (secondary to the use of the equipment) operated or moved over a highway (other than implements of husbandry).

Example: A cement mixer mounted on rubber tires and towed to/from jobs.



Special mobile equipment **does not** include:

- Camp trailers (CVC §242).
- Trailer coaches (CVC §635).
- Trailers or semitrailers that have been modified and are used as:
 - business or engineering offices, etc.
 - concession stands
 - dressing rooms
 - mobile medical service units
 - television remote studios

These trailers are designed for transporting the specialized equipment from location to location and **must be** registered as trailers. The body type for these trailers is “MMETLR.”

16.030 Modular Mobile Equipment

A vehicle containing permanently attached equipment which requires manual operation of that equipment by a person. Modular mobile equipment does not contain cargo space or space for carrying passengers for hire.

Example: bloodmobile, television remote studio, mobile medical service trailers.

16.030 Modular Mobile Equipment, *continued*

- Trailers, semi-trailers, motorhomes, and housecars are among the vehicles modified and reclassified as modular mobile equipment.
- The added equipment does not add to the efficient operation of the vehicle.
- Incidental use on the highway, such as movement from one location to another, does **not** exclude these vehicles from registration requirements **or** qualify them as special mobile equipment.

16.040 Implement of Husbandry (CVC §36000)

A vehicle which is used exclusively in the conduct of agricultural operations.

Vehicles that are designed primarily for transportation of persons or property on a highway **are not** implements of husbandry **unless** they are specifically designated as such by other provisions of the *Vehicle Code*.

Registration Exemption for Implements of Husbandry (CVC §36100)

- Implements of husbandry which are only incidentally operated or moved over a highway and those listed in CVC §§36005 or 36015 **are exempt** from registration.
- The owner of an implement of husbandry exempt from registration may, at the owner's option, secure a Special Equipment (SE) plate for the implement of husbandry vehicle (CVC §36115).

Implement of husbandry includes, but is not limited to:

- A lift carrier or other vehicle designed and used exclusively for the lifting and carrying of implements of husbandry or tools used exclusively for the production or harvesting of agricultural products, when operated or moved upon a highway (CVC §36005a).
- A trailer of the tip-bed type when used exclusively in the transportation of other implements of husbandry or tools used exclusively for the production or harvesting of agricultural products (CVC §36005b).
- A trailer or semitrailer having no bed, and designed and used solely for transporting a hay loader or swather (CVC §36005c).
- A spray or fertilizer applicator rig used exclusively for spraying or fertilizing in the conduct of agricultural operations.
 - Excluded from this definition are anhydrous ammonia fertilizer applicator rigs which have a transportation capacity in excess of 500 gallons (CVC §36005d).
- A trailer or semitrailer which has a maximum transportation capacity in excess of 500 gallons, but not more than 1000 gallons:
 - used exclusively for the transportation and application of anhydrous ammonia, if the vehicle is either equipped with operating brakes, **or**
 - towed upon a highway by a motor truck that is assigned a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of 3/4 ton or more.
- A combination of vehicles is limited to two vehicles operated one behind the other (CVC §36005e).

16.040 Implement of Husbandry (CVC §36000), *continued*

- A nurse rig or equipment auxiliary to the use of and designed or modified for the fueling, repairing, or loading of an applicator rig or an airplane used for the dusting, spraying, fertilizing, or seeding of crops (CVC §36005f).
- A row duster (CVC §36005g).
- A wagon or van:
 - used exclusively for carrying products of farming from one part of a farm to another part thereof, or from one farm to another farm, *and*
 - used solely for agricultural purposes, including any van used in harvesting alfalfa or cotton, which is only incidentally operated or moved on a highway as a trailer (CVC §36005h).
- A wagon or portable house on wheels:
 - used solely by shepherds as a permanent residence in connection with sheep raising operations, and
 - moved from one part of a ranch to another part thereof or from one ranch to another ranch,
 - which is only incidentally operated or moved on a highway as a trailer (CVC §36005i).
- Notwithstanding subdivision (f) of CVC §36101, a trap wagon, as defined in CVC §36016, moved from one part of a ranch to another part of the same ranch or from one ranch to another, which is only operated or moved on a highway incidental to agricultural operations.
 - The fuel tank or tanks of the trap wagon shall not exceed 1000 gallons total capacity (CVC §36005j).
- Any vehicle which is operated upon a highway only for the purpose of transporting agricultural products for a total distance of one mile or less from the point of origin of the trip (CVC §36005k).
- A portable honey-extracting trailer or semitrailer (CVC §36005l).
- A non-self propelled fertilizer nurse tank or trailer which is moved unladen on the highway and auxiliary to the use of a spray or fertilizer applicator rig (CVC §36005m).
- Any cotton trailer when used on the highways for the exclusive purpose of transporting cotton from a farm to a cotton gin, and returning the empty trailer to such farm (CVC §36005n).
 - An SE plate **is required** prior to movement on the highway (CVC §5014).
- A truck tractor or truck tractor and semitrailer combination:
 - which is owned by a farmer, *and*
 - operated on the highways only incidental to a farming operation, not for compensation, and for a distance of **not more** than two miles (on the highway) each way (CVC §36005o).

16.040 Implement of Husbandry (CVC §36000), *continued*

NOTE: This definition applies only to:

- truck tractors with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating **over 10,000 pounds** that are equipped with all-wheel drive and off-highway traction tires on all wheels, *and*
- only to semitrailers used in combination with such a truck tractor and exclusively in production or harvesting of tomatoes.

These vehicles **cannot** be operated in excess of 25 miles per hour on the highways.

Farm Trailer (CVC §36010)

A farm trailer is either of the following:

- A trailer or semitrailer owned and operated by a farmer in the conduct of agricultural operations, and used exclusively to transport agricultural products upon the highways to the point of first handling and return.
- A trailer or semitrailer:
 - equipped with rollers on the bed, with a frame not taller than 10 inches high, and with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less,
 - that is owned, rented, or leased by a farmer and operated by that farmer in the conduct of agricultural operations,
 - used exclusively to transport fruit and vegetables upon the highway to the point of first handling and return, and
 - that was manufactured and in use prior to January 1, 1997.

NOTE: These vehicles may also be operated on the highways without a load for the purpose of delivering a rented or leased vehicle to the renting or leasing farmer's farm, or returning empty to the owner's premises.

Cotton Module Mover (CVC §§36012 and 36101)

A cotton module mover:

- is a motor truck, semitrailer, or a truck tractor in combination with a semitrailer, that is equipped with a self-loading bed, *and*
- is designed and used exclusively to transport field manufactured cotton modules to a cotton gin.

An SE identification plate for the vehicle is optional **unless** it is a truck tractor in combination with a semitrailer.

16.040 Implement of Husbandry (CVC §36000), *continued***Farm Tractor Used for Towing (CVC §36015)**

An implement of husbandry includes:

- any farm tractor, otherwise an implement of husbandry, used upon a highway to draw a farm trailer, carrying farm produce, or to draw any trailer, **or**
- semitrailer carrying other implements of husbandry, between farms, or from a farm to a processing or handling point and returning with or without the trailer

16.050 Farm Vehicles (CVC §36101)

The following farm vehicles are exempt from registration **provided** they have and display an SE plate as specified in CVC §5014.

NOTE: These vehicles **are not** implements of husbandry and are subject to all equipment and device requirements as if registered.

- A feed and seed motor vehicle:
 - which is of a size (oversized) requiring a permit under CVC §35780,
 - owned **and** operated by a farmer,
 - designed **and** used exclusively for carrying feed and seed products of farming from one part of a farm to another part thereof, or from one farm to another farm and returning empty (CVC §36101a).
- A vehicle equipped with a water tank owned by a farmer and used exclusively to service the farmer's own implements of husbandry (CVC §36101b).
- A water tank truck, which is:
 - owned by a farmer,
 - not operated for compensation, and
 - used extensively in the conduct of agricultural operations, when used exclusively for sprinkling water on dirt roads providing access to agricultural fields or transportation of water for irrigation of crops or trees (CVC §36101c).
- A cotton module mover as defined in CVC §36012 (see previous definition). (CVC §36101d)
- In order to maintain the exemption from registration granted under CVC §36101 for a truck tractor, when combined with a semitrailer, the owner of the truck tractor:
 - **shall not** operate it during the exemption period in any manner other than as a cotton module mover, as defined in CVC §36012, **and**
 - **shall** do all of the following:
 - » Register the vehicle before operating it as a commercial motor vehicle.
 - » Apply annually to renew the exemption from registration.

16.050 Farm Vehicles (CVC §36101), *continued*

NOTE: These vehicles are exempt from payment of the vehicle license fee (VLF) and weight fees, but **must annually pay** the:

- registration fee required under CVC 9250.1, and
- law enforcement fee required under CVC §9250.8, and
- CHP fee required under CVC §9250.13.

- A trailer equipped with a plenum chamber for the drying of agricultural commodities (CVC §36101e).
- Except as provided in subdivision (j) of CVC §36005, a trap wagon, as defined in CVC §36016, which is equipped with a fuel tank or tanks.
 - The fuel tank or tanks **cannot** exceed 3000 gallons total capacity (CVC §36101f).
- A forklift truck, operated by a farmer not for compensation. For purposes of this section a hay-squeeze shall be considered a forklift (CVC §36101g).
- A truck tractor or truck tractor and semitrailer combination which is owned by a farmer **and** operated on the highways only incidental to a farming operation and **not** for compensation (CVC §36101h).

This definition applies only to:

- truck tractors with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating over 10,000 pounds that are equipped with all-wheel drive and off-highway traction tires on all wheels, **and**
- semitrailers used in combination with such a truck tractor and exclusively in the production or harvesting of melons.

These vehicles **shall not** be operated in excess of 25 miles per hour on the highways. These vehicles may be prohibited by law from operating on specific routes.

- A motor vehicle specifically:
 - designed for, and used exclusively in, an agricultural operation for purposes of carrying, or returning empty from carrying, silage, **and**
 - operated by a farmer, an employee of the farmer, or a contracted employee of the farmer between one part of a farm to another part of that farm or from one farm to another farm, **and**
 - operated on a highway for a distance not to exceed 20 miles from the point of origin of the trip.

This **does not** include a vehicle that is used for transportation of silage for retail sales. For purposes of this definition, "silage" includes field corn, sorghum, grass, legumes, cereals or cereal mixes, either green or mature, converted into feed for livestock (CVC §36101i).

16.050 Farm Vehicles (CVC §36101), *continued*

Farm vehicles **shall not** be operated:

- Laden on the highway for more than two miles from the point of origin.
- Unladen on the highway for more than 15 miles from the point of origin, unless accompanied by an escort vehicle to the front and rear.
- Unladen on the highway for more than 30 miles from the point of origin.

NOTE: Farm vehicles **do not** have the same equipment requirements as implements of husbandry.

Other Farm Vehicles (CVC §36102)

The following vehicles are exempt from registration if they have and display SE plates as specified in CVC §5014.

These vehicles shall not be deemed to be implements of husbandry, except when operated pursuant to CVC §36005(k). Refer to **Implements of Husbandry** (CVC §36005) information in this section.

- An **automatic bale wagon** operated unladen on the highway (CVC §36102a).
 - An automatic bale wagon is a motor vehicle capable of transporting property on a highway and equipped with apparatus specifically designed to pick up single bales of hay or straw from a field and to load and unload baled hay or straw. (CVC §36011).
 - An automatic bale wagon when transporting baled hay or straw for a distance of not more than five continuous road miles on a highway from one parcel of property owned, leased, or controlled by a farmer to another parcel of property owned, leased, or controlled by that farmer (CVC §36102b).
- A motor vehicle, also known as a **livestock feed hauler**, which is designed for, and used exclusively to, haul feed for livestock and which is owned and operated exclusively by a farmer or an employee of a farmer (CVC §36102c).

These vehicles may be operated only:

- on those highways that are maintained by local authorities and pursuant to a permit issued by the local authority having jurisdiction over the highways used, and
- for a distance of **not more than** five continuous road miles from one parcel of property owned, leased, or controlled by a farmer to another parcel of property owned, leased, or controlled by that farmer.
- The vehicle **cannot** be used for transportation for compensation.

Trap Wagon (CVC §36016)

A trap wagon is a trailer or semitrailer used exclusively in the conduct of agricultural operations to fuel, service, or repair implements of husbandry.

A trap wagon may be equipped with tools, spare parts, lubricating supplies, or fuel tanks.

16.060 Cemetery Equipment (CVC §§4012 and 5011)

Any vehicle, implement, or equipment specifically designed or altered for and used exclusively in the maintenance or operation of cemetery grounds, which is only incidentally operated or moved on a highway.

Cemetery equipment **must** display a special identification plate if moved over a highway.

16.070 Logging Vehicle (CVC §§379, 4018 and 5011)

A vehicle used exclusively in the conduct of logging operations and not designed for the transportation of persons or property.

Any logging vehicle is exempt from registration, but **must** display a special identification plate if moved over a highway.

16.080 Special Equipment (SE) Identification Plates (CVC §§5011, 5015-5016, and 36115)

SE plates have a fixed expiration of 12/31 every five years and **must be** renewed between January 1 and February 4 following the expiration date.

- Fees **are not** prorated on original or renewal applications.
- No title or ownership documents are issued on an SE transaction.
- The owner may apply for a Title Only separately. See section 16.030 for “Title Only” requests.

NOTE: *Government-owned* vehicles subject to SE plate requirements are exempt from the SE plate fee. These applications are only processed by the Special Processing Unit (SPU) in Sacramento headquarters.

SE plates are required for:

- Special Mobile Equipment (CVC §575)
- Special Construction Equipment (CVC §565)
- Cemetery Equipment (CVC §4012)
- Farm Vehicles (CVC §36101)
- Logging Vehicles (CVC §379)

SE plates are **optional** for Implements of Husbandry (CVC §36000).

Water Tank Trucks Owned by an Equipment Rental Company

- A water tank truck owned by an equipment rental company may be issued SE plates if usage is limited on the rental contract to highway construction **or** railroad right-of-way construction or maintenance.
- A *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) **must be** submitted with the plate application, as listed in **SE Plate Applications** in this section.

16.080 Special Equipment (SE) Identification Plates (CVC §§5011, 5015-5016, and 36115), *continued*

SE Plate Application requirements

- A completed *Application for Special Equipment Identification Plate* (REG 88), which **fully** describes the use of the vehicle/equipment.
 - A Vehicle Identification Number **must** be shown on the REG 88. No verification of the VIN is required.
- A photo of the entire vehicle/equipment.
 - The photo should not exceed the size of the REG 88.
 - One photo is acceptable for multiple applications for identical vehicles/equipment presented at the same time.
 - Cross-reference each application without a photo to the application with the photo.
 - Note on the face of these applications “Refer to SE#__ for photo.”
 - The SE fee is due for each vehicle.
- A *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) for water tank trucks owned by an equipment rental company.
 - The applicant must certify “*The vehicle is limited by contract for use on highway construction or railroad rights-of-way construction or maintenance.*”
- Original SE plate or Truck Tractor Cotton Module Mover plate fee.
 - A late penalty **is not** assessed for SE plates. (An exempt agency application is a no-fee transaction.)

IMPORTANT: SE plates **cannot be issued** to concrete pumps/pumper booms, oil well drilling rigs, and other similar equipment. These vehicles meet the definition of, and **must be** registered as, a “crane.”

16.090 “Title Only” for Special Equipment (CVC §§4010 and 36100)

- A “Title Only” may be issued for a vehicle which displays a Special Equipment (SE) identification plate.
- The “Title Only” is a separate transaction which will issue a title and create another record on the DMV database.

Application Requirements to issue a “Title Only” are:

- A completed *Application for Title or Registration* (REG 343).
- *Vehicle Verification* (REG 31)
- Proof of ownership **and** any bills of sale needed to establish a complete chain of ownership.
 - Proof of ownership may include an MSO/MCO, *Application for Registration of New Vehicle* (REG 397), etc.

16.090 “Title Only” for Special Equipment (CVC §§4010 and 36100), continued

— See Chapter 7, Miscellaneous Originals, for original registration requirements

- *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) Section C and G, completed by the owner, which requests “Title Only” and states that the vehicle is being operated with a Special Equipment plate (to exempt it from PNO requirements).
- The “Title Only” fee shown in Appendix 1F.

<p>NOTE: A licensed dealer selling special equipment vehicles must complete a report of sale as usual when a “Title Only” is requested for a Special Equipment.</p>

16.100 Transfers of Special Equipment (CVC §§5017 and 5018)

When a special equipment is transferred, the SE plate must be surrendered to the department.

- The new owner **must** qualify for issuance of Special Equipment plates.
- The **seller/owner of record** must complete the information on the back of the SE ID card and forward it to the department to report the transfer.

The buyer/new owner must submit:

- A completed *Application for Special Equipment Identification Plate* (REG 88), marked as a transfer, which **fully** describes the use of the vehicle/equipment.
 - A Vehicle Identification Number **must** be shown on the REG 88. No verification of the VIN is required.
- A photo of the entire vehicle/equipment.
 - The photo should not exceed the size of the REG 88.
 - One photo is acceptable for multiple applications for identical vehicles/equipment presented at the same time.
 - Cross-reference each application without a photo to the application with the photo.
 - Note on the face of these applications “Refer to SE#___ for photo.”
 - The SE fee is due for each vehicle.
- A *Statement of Facts* (REG 256) for water tank trucks owned by an equipment rental company.
 - The applicant must certify “*The vehicle is limited by contract for use on highway construction or railroad rights-of-way construction or maintenance.*”
- Original SE plate or Truck Tractor Cotton Module Mover plate fee.
 - A late penalty **is not** assessed for SE plates. (An exempt agency application is a no-fee transaction).
 - A new SE plate will be issued.

16.100 Transfers of Special Equipment (CVC §§5017 and 5018), *continued***Transfer of “*Title Only*”**

If a “Title Only” has been issued for the SE vehicle, it must be endorsed for transfer and submitted to the department for issuance of a new “Title Only.”

- The basic transfer requirements apply to change ownership of the vehicle.
- *Statement of Facts* (REG 256), Section C and G, must be completed by the owner, which requests “Title Only” and states that the vehicle is being operated with a Special Equipment plate (to exempt it from PNO).
- Transfer fee. Use Tax is not due on a transfer of “Title Only.”